

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a multicast transmission system comprising a first station and a plurality of second stations, the method comprising the steps of:

at the first station, transmitting data;

at each of the second stations:

receiving the data;

determining whether the received data is fully decodable;

if the data is not fully decodable, transmitting a reply signal; and

at the first station:

receiving the reply signal from at least one of the second stations, and

in response to receiving the reply signal, retransmitting at least a portion of the data;

further comprising

the reply signal being devoid of an indication of ~~the~~ an identity of the transmitting second station;

at the first station:

selecting, for retransmitting the data, between a dedicated mode in which the data is addressed to one of the second stations and a broadcast mode in which the data is broadcast to a plurality of the second stations;

in response to selecting the dedicated mode and prior to the retransmission, transmitting a further signal for further processing;

at each of the second stations which transmitted the reply signal, in response to receiving the further signal, transmitting an indication of ~~its~~ an identity of the further signal only for the further processing; and

at the first station, receiving the indication of identity and employing the indication of identity to address the retransmission to one of the second stations.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising estimating ~~the~~ a number of second stations transmitting the reply signal and selecting the mode dependent on the estimate.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reply signal is transmitted in an access slot indicative of a portion of data to be retransmitted.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reply signal comprises a signature indicative of a portion of data to be retransmitted.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the further signal comprises a positive acknowledgement.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transmitted indication of identity comprises a message transmitted on a random access channel having an access service class (ASC) different from the ASC of the reply signal.

7. (Currently Amended) A communication station for use in a multicast transmission system comprising a plurality of second stations, the communication station comprising:

means for transmitting data;

means for receiving a reply signal from at least one of the second stations, and

means responsive to receiving the reply signal for retransmitting at least a portion of the data, the reply signal being devoid of an indication of an identity of the second stations;

further comprising:

means for selecting, for retransmitting the data, between a dedicated mode in which the data is addressed to one of the second stations and a broadcast mode in which the data is broadcast to a plurality of the second stations;

means responsive to selecting the dedicated mode for transmitting a further signal for further processing;

means for receiving an indication of identity ~~transmitted by a second station~~ of the further signal only for the further processing; and

means for employing the indication of identity to address the retransmission to one of the second stations.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The communication station as claimed in claim 7, wherein the means for selecting the mode is adapted to estimate ~~the~~ a number of second stations transmitting the reply signal and to select the mode dependent on the estimate.

9. (Currently Amended) A communication station for use in a multicast transmission system, the communication station comprising:

means for receiving data;

means for determining whether the received data is fully decodable; ~~and~~

means responsive to the data not being fully decodable for transmitting a reply signal devoid of an indication of identity of the communication station; ~~and~~

means responsive to receiving a further signal for transmitting an indication of identity of the communication station; and

means for receiving a retransmission of at least a portion of the data whether addressed to the communication station or whether broadcast;

wherein an identity of a signal is retransmitted for further processing only if the dedicated mode was selected.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The communication station as claimed in claim 9, wherein the means for transmitting the reply signal is adapted to indicate a portion of the data for which retransmission is requested by selection from a plurality of at least one of a time slot and a signature.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The multicast transmission system comprising a first station in accordance with claim 7 and a plurality of second stations.